

# 9

24 April 1959

From: PHILIP E. LAINAIS

To: CASE OFFICER

Subject: Mr. ALEKSANDER P. SITNIKOV, second secretary of the  
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations

See Report # 8 of January 30, 1959

Source: 1. Telephone call to Mr. SITNIKOV on 12 February 1959

2. Meeting with Mr. SITNIKOV on 17 March 1959

3. Meeting with Mr. SITNIKOV on 21 April 1959

1. As Mr. SITNIKOV promised to call me or Mr. SHUKIELOYTS to arrange another meeting, and till 12 of February he did not call I decided to call him on Lincoln Day. I dialled the Byelorussian Mission to the U.N. 6 East 67th Street New York City Tel: LE 5-0730 and got connection with Mr. SITNIKOV.  
I asked him (Mr. SITNIKOV) if did he forget to call me. Mr. SITNIKOV answered no but, because he was busy with the Gomaron problem in the U.N. had no time available for meeting, but at the same time promised to call me.
2. On 17 March Mr. SITNIKOV called me at Holland-America Line and we agree to meet at 7:00 PM the same day at Four Continents Book Store at Broadway and 12th Street, New York City. The meeting took place at the established time. Mr. SITNIKOV bought some Soviet books and I bought several numbers of "Zvezda" for January 1959. Next we went to the restaurant across Broadway vis a vis the Book Store. There we had over 6 drinks each and talked generally about politics (Mr. SITNIKOV defended the Soviet system)  
The purpose of the meeting was to give Mr. SITNIKOV books about Byelorussia published in the Free World. I brought him eleven books out of which Mr. SITNIKOV selected only two "Opposition to Sovietization in Byelorussian Literature" by Anthony Adamovich and "Byelorussia's Independence Day" published by Byelorussian-American Association in New York the other books he did not want, because he said, there is no material he is interested in for his work on which he want to write a book, the subject is "Byelorussia on International arena in the past and present"  
In discussion Mr. SITNIKOV always tried to avoid to discuss the STALIN period in the USSR but, always tried to emphasize that the things have been changed now, more freedom, people lives better etc. To support this argument he proposed me to go to Byelorussia and see that all this is a true.  
When I pressed him about national problem in USSR and that he is not Byelorussian Mr. SITNIKOV stated that he is Byelorussian and his original name was SITNIK but being picked up by Soviet Author-

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Authorities reared at educated in Russia so his name automatically become Russianized to SITNIKOV thus he knows about nationalism (Byelorussian) nothing and for the education he got from the Soviets he must remain faithful. Further he told that he saw already the book "Opposition to the Sovietisation" in the Library of the U.N. and that he admires the author and would like to see him in the future if possible.

Mr. SITNIKOV ~~promised~~ promised to call me again and have another friendly meeting.

3. On 21 April 1959 just before 5:00 PM Mr. SITNIKOV called me over phone and proposed meeting at 5:30 PM at the Four Continent Book Store. We met punctually, I as usually bought some numbers of newspaper "Zviazda" for March 1959. We went to Luchow's restaurant on East 14th Street had cold dinner and several drinks than we walked on 14th Street between 5th Ave and Union Square. There was usual political conversation and again Mr. SITNIKOV to convince me that in Byelorussia everything changed to go there and see and that he gives me guaranty that nothing happend and that I will be ably to come back. However, this he said, as an argument to convince me that I am wrong on Soviet system and not to try me convince to go to BSSR, this is my impression. I asked him several questions and I found that he has a brother in USSR with the name SITNIK, he denied the relationship or acquaintance with Mr. VASIL ROMANOVICH SITNIKOV (Soviet Security Officer) and EKATERINA SITNIKOVA who wrote booklet "ZOV OTCHIZNY" published by the Committee for "Za vozvrashcheniye na roдинu" in 1958. Mr. SITNIKOV promised to call again and asked me never call him at the Mission.

My personal impression is: That Mr. SITNIKOV is rather an idealist and does not know the reality of the Soviet System ( or he is an MVD officer and in this case plays very ably). And that he does not want that his entourage knows about our meetings and plays it safely, or again he makes to cover his affiliation with MVD. The future meeting, if happens, will help to discover the purposes he is working on.

*Philip E. Launais*  
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